

## DEVELOPMENT OF KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS TOWARD POSTSECONDARY REFORM

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Agenda Item D-3  
May 22, 2000

### Information:

*The Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* directs the Council to develop a strategic agenda, a plan to implement that agenda, financial incentives and funding policies that support the plan's accomplishment, and indicators and benchmarks for measuring progress. In July 1998, the Council approved *2020 Vision: An Agenda for Kentucky's System of Postsecondary Education*. The more detailed *Action Agenda: 1999-2004* was put in place in September 1999. And the General Assembly approved in April 2000 the allocation of funds to the system, its universities, and the KCTCS based on the new benchmark funding guidelines and incentive trust fund proposals approved by the Council in November 1999.

These plans and funding decisions lay the foundation for the development of a short list of key indicators for measuring progress toward the reforms outlined in HB1. These key indicators should answer these five questions:

- Are more students ready for college?
- Are more students enrolling in college?
- Are students advancing through the system?
- Are students prepared for life and work?
- Is Kentucky's economy benefiting?

For each of these questions, the Council staff proposes the identification of 3-5 specific, measurable indicators, each with its own goal and timeline for reaching them. Some of these goals will be institution-specific; others will be systemwide. Attachment A provides further detail about progress on this work.

Over the past several months, the Council staff has:

- Consulted with the Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, and institutional research staff at the campuses.
- Met with educational testing vendors.
- Reviewed statewide accountability programs in other states.
- Formed a Survey Advisory Group composed of institutional representatives.

- Coordinated this initiative with the national report card project being sponsored by the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education.
- Begun development of a web-based “consumer information system,” which will include these key indicators, broader social indicators, and other information of interest to key stakeholders, particularly students, parents, state policy makers, and employers.

Attachment B outlines a timeline for completing this work. We anticipate bringing a recommendation to the Council before the end of the year.

Staff Preparation by Sue Hodges Moore

**KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS TOWARD POSTSECONDARY REFORM****Working Outline****1. *Are more students ready for college?***

- ◆ Adult literacy rates
- ◆ High school coursework and test scores
- ◆ Remediation rates

**2. *Are more students enrolling?***

- ◆ Enrollments in postsecondary education
  - ◆ Program-seeking
  - ◆ Customized workforce training
  - ◆ Adult participation
  - ◆ KCVU
- ◆ College-going rates of high school graduates
- ◆ Transition rate from adult basic to postsecondary education

**3. *Are students advancing?***

- ◆ Transition rates
  - ◆ from first to second year of study
  - ◆ from two-year to four-year institutions
  - ◆ from undergraduate to graduate/professional programs
- ◆ Completion and graduation rates
  - ◆ Certificates, diplomas, degrees awarded

**4. *Are students prepared for life and work?***

- ◆ Foundational skills
  - ◆ writing, reading, mathematics, science reasoning, critical thinking, problem solving
- ◆ Alumni satisfaction
  - ◆ undergraduate and graduate surveys
- ◆ Pass rates on licensure and certification exams
  - ◆ expand current data collection
- ◆ Undergraduate student experience
  - ◆ National Survey of Student Engagement

**5. *Is Kentucky's economy benefiting?***

- ◆ Employer satisfaction
  - ◆ with completers and graduates
  - ◆ with services and support
- ◆ Research and development
  - ◆ external research support
  - ◆ business start-ups

**KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS TOWARD POSTSECONDARY REFORM**

**Development Timeline  
2000**

**APRIL**

- ◆ Discussion with Council of Chief Academic Officers
- ◆ First Survey Advisory Group meeting
- ◆ Meeting in Bloomington with National Survey of Student Engagement staff
- ◆ Meeting with National Center for Higher Education Management Systems on statewide testing pilot project and national report card project

**MAY**

- ◆ Presentation to Education Professional Standards Board
- ◆ Meeting with KCTCS on key indicators
- ◆ Meeting with UK/UL on research & development/economic indicators
- ◆ Staff work on adult education/literacy indicators
- ◆ Survey Advisory Group meeting
- ◆ Review of benchmark data for goal-setting
- ◆ Council information item on general outline and timeline

**JUNE**

- ◆ Discussion with P-16 Council
- ◆ Discussion with Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders
- ◆ Meeting with Workforce Development Cabinet on adult education/literacy indicators
- ◆ Survey Advisory Group meeting

**JULY-AUGUST**

- ◆ Council discussion on draft indicators and goals
- ◆ Draft indicators and goals circulated for review and comment

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**

- ◆ Discussion session on indicators and national report card at trusteeship conference
- ◆ SCOPE meeting to discuss draft indicators and goals
- ◆ Development of 2000 annual progress report

**NOVEMBER**

- ◆ Council action on key indicators and goals
- ◆ Council agenda item on 2000 annual progress report